Fitch upgraded the Sultanate of Oman's credit rating to bb with a stable outlook, while Oman's long-term foreign currency issuer (IDR) was upgraded to bb from bb-.

According to the agency, the high oil revenues will contribute to achieving a surplus in the Sultanate’s budget 2022 and 2023, while the upgrade of the rating reflects major improvements in Omani financial standards.

While oil prices are expected to decline in the medium term, the agency indicated that the rating upgrade reflects the easing of external financing pressures and the ongoing efforts to reform public finances, revealing that the financing situation in Oman is better than in previous years.

The agency noted that the medium-term funding requirements are still large and the Sultanate's external debt level is high, while the economy and financial revenues remain linked to the hydrocarbon sector despite the continuous structural adjustments to enhance diversification.

Fitch also raised its positive expectations for the recovery of tourism in the Sultanate of Oman during the current and next year, with the agency's experts predicting stronger growth for the sector during the medium-term forecast period between 2024 and 2026.

Source (Al-Arabiya.net Website, Edited)
Kuwait financial ministry, revealed, about registering a deficit of 33 million dinars ($88 million) in the first half of the current year 2022, compared to a deficit of 520 million dinars ($1.39 billion) during the same period last year.

According to the ministry, total public revenues amounted to 1.698 billion dinars ($4.53 billion), an increase of 52 percent, compared to the first half of 2021, while total expenditures rose by 2 percent to 1.665 billion dinars. Kuwait had expected a significant reduction in the budget deficit for the first half of 2022 thanks to the rise in oil prices.

Source (Al-Arabiya.net Website, Edited)

The Bahraini Ministry of Finance revealed that Bahrain recorded a budget surplus of 33 million dinars ($88 million) in the first half of the current year 2022, compared to a deficit of 520 million dinars ($1.39 billion) during the same period last year.

According to the ministry, total public revenues amounted to 1.698 billion dinars ($4.53 billion), an increase of 52 percent, compared to the first half of 2021, while total expenditures rose by 2 percent to 1.665 billion dinars. Bahrain had expected a significant reduction in the budget deficit for the first half of 2022 thanks to the rise in oil prices.

Source (Al-Arabiya.net Website, Edited)

The Tunisian economy grew by 2.8 percent during the second quarter of this year on an annual basis, according to the data of the National Institute of Statistics, which attributed this growth mainly to the high rate of value-added growth in the service sector, which amounted to 5.2 percent on an annual basis. However, compared to the growth rate in the first quarter of this year, the gross domestic product (GDP) decreased by 1.0 percent due to the decline in the performance of the building and construction sector and the industrial sector to a lesser extent.

On the other hand, the Tunisian trade balance recorded a deficit of $4.3 billion during the first seven months of this year, despite the improvement of Tunisian exports during that period by 23.1 percent, compared to the first seven months of 2021. While the increase in the percentage of imports amounted to 31.6 percent. This caused the trade deficit to worsen to 13.7 billion Tunisian dinars ($4.3 billion), compared to $2.7 billion during the first seven months of 2021.

The "National Institute of Statistics" attributed the worsening of the deficit to the increase recorded in imports in most sectors; Among them, mainly energy materials by 89.7 percent, raw materials and semi-finished materials by 35.7 percent, and consumables by 13.4 percent. On the other hand, the "National Institute of Statistics" data showed a decrease in the unemployment rate during the second quarter of this year to 15.3 percent.

Source (Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Newspaper, Edited)
Jordan’s budget deficit before external grants decreased between January and last May by 14 percent on an annual basis.

The Ministry of Finance revealed that the budget deficit before grants reached 603.6 million dinars ($851 million), compared to 707.8 million dinars ($998 million) during the same period in 2021. According to the ministry’s data, the budget recorded a deficit after external grants of 792 million dollars until May from 897.5 million dollars, compared to an annual decline of 11.7 percent.

Grants and foreign aid directed to the Jordanian budget, until the end of May, decreased by 41.1 percent to $59.2 million, compared to $100 million a year ago.

Jordan is among the countries that depend the most on foreign aid because of the weak structural structure of the economy, so tourism, which is a strategic sector, suffers from problems along with industry, agriculture, and others. The Jordanian economy was particularly affected last year by the closures aimed at containing the pandemic, and the unemployment rate reached 24 percent amid the worst contraction in decades.

Source (Al-Arab Newspaper of London, Edited)